

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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AMA Will Accept Artificial Sweeteners for Dietary Foods

As the result of a special conference held in Chicago on April 9, the Council on Foods and Nutrition of the American Medical Association decided that the Council would regard artificially sweetened special purpose foods as coming within its scope for consideration and eligible for acceptance.

The steps which must follow this decision have not been worked out in detail as yet, but it seems clear that products in this category, if they are to be accepted, must meet the general rules of the Council as well as certain other specific requirements still in the process of formulation.

Venezuela Orders Registration, Special Labeling on Foods

All food products for consumption in Venezuela must be registered with the Venezuelan Ministry of Health and, when imported, such products must bear certain special information either on the labels or on the cartons, effective May 31.

According to the April 13 issue of *Foreign Commerce Weekly*, official publication of the U. S. Department of Commerce, the Venezuelan Ministry of Health will require the following information either incorporated into the label or firmly attached to the container as an additional sticker or tag:

"The common name of the product.
"The name of the manufacturer, broker, or exporter (this to be interpreted as the name of the company responsible for the product).
"The net weight in the metric system.

"The phrase 'Registrado en el Ministerio de Sanidad bajo el numero. . .'. These words, which mean 'Registered in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare under number. . .', may not be abbreviated in any way."

According to the dispatch, which originated from the American Embassy in Caracas:

"No official resolution to this effect has yet been published in the *Official*

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FDA Revises Regulations for Sea Food Inspection

Regulations for the sea food inspection service—for canned shrimp, fresh and frozen shrimp, and canned oysters—have been revised by the Food and Drug Administration.

The changes in the regulations establish a new system for collection of fees, extend inspection services to plants supplying certain raw materials to the inspected establishments, provide for revised processing times and temperatures, conspicuous placement of the inspection legend, if used, and advancement of the application dates to permit more thorough preparation for inspection.

Text of the revised regulations was published in the *Federal Register* of April 16, to be effective 30 days following the date of publication.

The principal change in the regulations has to do with the collection of fees for the service. According to FDA, the cost will be met first from standard monthly payments by all subscribers, and then by supplements to the fund as the season progresses, from production deposits based on the cases of oysters packed or the pounds of shrimp received by the establishment. At the end of the fiscal year any excess of money collected over FDA's total expenses in rendering the service is refunded to the subscribers.

Heretofore, FDA said, the system of assessing subscribers gave prime importance to the number of cases packed rather than to the monthly payment. As a result, the more productive packer who utilized the services of a single inspector paid more than his less productive competitor who took the same amount of inspection time for supervision of a smaller output. This could result in a packer with a very large production having to pay a disproportionate share of the cost of the service. Recognizing this, the revised regulations shift emphasis to the fixed monthly charges and make the production deposits secondary. FDA said that this system will more nearly make each indi-

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Mexican Farm Labor Program

The House on April 15 passed and sent to the Senate H. R. 3480, extending until December 31, 1956, the time during which Mexican nationals may be employed in agriculture. The House rejected an amendment to limit this authority to one year.

Domestic Sugar Quota Raised

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has announced an increase of 100,000 short tons, raw value, in the supply of sugar that will be available under the 1953 sugar quota. With this increase, the 1953 quota is established at 7,900,000 tons, the same amount as the final 1952 quota.

USDA said that distribution to date in 1953 has been running slightly behind that for the corresponding period of 1952. Nevertheless, sugar prices have been above those of last year and have been rising, USDA stated, and some of the recent strength in the spot market appears to have been related to activity in the futures market.

Spring Meeting of Board, Administrative Council

Those desiring the N.C.A. to arrange hotel space for the Spring meetings of the Board of Directors and Administrative Council are requested to make reservations promptly. They should be addressed to Miss Helen Tate at the N.C.A. and must be received not later than May 11. Applicants should state approximate hour of arrival and, when possible, indicate date of departure.

Only the most limited space is available prior to May 22, the opening day of the Board meeting, and this has been almost entirely assigned to members whose earlier presence is required.

The Board meeting begins with luncheon at the Statler Hotel on Friday, May 22.

1953 N.C.A. Committees

In the listing of N.C.A. Committees in last week's INFORMATION LETTER, the following was inadvertently omitted:

Technical Advisory Committee to the Labeling Committee

Alan C. Richardson, *Chairman*, California Packing Corp., San Francisco, Calif.

Ralph W. Fogler, *Libby*, McNeill & Libby, Chicago, Ill.

E. C. Ritchell, *Green Giant Co.*, Le Sueur, Minn.

L. F. Rutledge, *Stokely-Van Camp, Inc.*, Indianapolis, Ind.

H. K. Wilder, *Schuckl & Co., Inc.*, Sunnyvale, Calif.

PERSONNEL

Dr. Stier Elected

Dr. Howard L. Stier, Director of the N.C.A. Division of Statistics, has been elected a director of the American Marketing Association for 1953-54.

Dr. Stier also has been elected vice president of the Washington, D. C., section of the American Society for Quality Control.

N.C.A. Staff Members Speak

Two members of the N.C.A. staff took part this week in the first annual Plant Managers, Superintendents and Foremen Conferences conducted by the New York State Cannery and Freezers Association, Inc.

C. Wallace Bohrer of the Washington Research Laboratory staff spoke on "Factory Sanitation and Spoilage Control." Dr. Howard L. Stier, Director of the Division of Statistics, covered the "Importance of Statistical Techniques in Maintaining Quality."

National Red Cherry Institute

The National Red Cherry Institute elected the following officers recently at the association's annual meeting:

President—Gary S. Morgan, John C. Morgan Co., Traverse City, Mich.; vice president—Ben F. Batcheler, Fruit Growers Cooperative, Sturgeon Bay, Wis.; executive secretary-treasurer—William B. Powell, Chicago.

The Institute has established new headquarters in the Pure Oil Bldg., 35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago 1, Ill.

Calpack Elects Turner

R. Curtis Turner has been elected a director of the California Packing Corporation and a member of its executive committee. His election was announced by the Calpack board of directors following its meeting April 9. He will continue as director of pineapple operations.

Mr. Turner takes the place on the board formerly held by Ralph Brown, who retired from the Corporation and the board of directors April 8.

Venezuelan Requirements

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Gazette. Hence it is presumed that this action has taken the form of an internal administrative order. It is assumed that, since this regulation was not given wide publicity, the Venezuelan authorities will permit entry into the country of goods in preparation or in transit.

"The Venezuelan Ministry of Health has been trying to stimulate the registration of more food products sold in the country by requiring purity certificates for each shipment of non-registered food products. Venezuelan food and beverage regulations require that all food products be registered, but the Ministry of Health has not hitherto insisted upon this requirement.

"Other than incidental expenses, there is no charge for registration of food products, nor is reregistration required. An application for registration must be accompanied by:

"Three samples of the product (for flour, each sample to be 2 kilograms; for other products, 1 kilogram).

"Three samples of the empty container, when it is a paper or cloth sack, or carton. When a large wood, fiber, or steel container is used, a full description in Spanish in triplicate, together with a photograph of the container, will be a satisfactory substitute.

"A certificate from a public health official of the federal government, or of some state or local government, declaring that the sale and consumption of the product has been authorized in the country of origin and that the product has been manufactured on inspected premises and in accordance with official requirements. This certificate must be legalized by the Venezuelan consul.

"Three samples of the sticker or additional label if the required information is not shown on the container or normal label. For food products containing more than one ingredient, the label must show a list of ingredients in descending order of volume."

According to *Foreign Commerce Weekly*:

"The application for registration must be made on stamped paper (cost, 0.50 bolivar) and must carry a 1-bolivar stamp. There is no charge for analysis. Thus, total incidental expense of registration is 1.50 bolivars (1 bolivar = \$0.30). The time consumed in registration is about 30 days."

CONGRESS

FDA Factory Inspection

Hearings have been scheduled April 23-24 by the House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce on legislation to reinstate factory inspection authority under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

Sea Food Inspection

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vidual packer pay for the amount of work actually performed.

Under the revised regulations, inspection extends to plants supplying certain raw materials to the inspected establishments. Until a few years ago the service was limited to canned shrimp. Most shrimp were caught fairly close to the processing plant. Incident to the discovery of extensive shrimp-producing areas in outlying portions of the Gulf and in the Caribbean, a considerable volume of shrimp now is partially processed (headed and/or frozen) either on the boats or in a shore installation away from the final packing establishment. In addition, the inspection service is now available on breaded shrimp, production of which requires the use of raw materials other than shrimp. Inspection of these sources of supply is authorized under the revised regulations. The cost is placed upon the subscriber.

The changes in processing times and temperatures in the revised regulations have been made consistent with present-day commercial practices, FDA said.

STANDARDS

Canned Sweet Cherry Grades

The Production and Marketing Administration, USDA, has revised U. S. standards for grades of canned sweet cherries. Text of the revised standards was published in the *Federal Register* of April 14.

STATISTICS

Snap Beans for Processing

An increase of about 5 percent over last year's snap bean plantings is indicated for 1953, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

If early-season acreage prospects materialize, the 1953 plantings of snap beans for canning, freezing and other processing will total 128,490 acres. This compares with a revised estimate of 121,940 acres planted in 1952 and a 1942-51 average of 136,000 acres.

Assuming average abandonment of about 5 percent, about 122,100 acres would be harvested in 1953. This compares with a revised estimate of 115,680 acres harvested in 1952 and a 1942-51 average of 129,630 acres.

The harvest of 122,100 acres, with a yield in line with the 10-year average of 1.81 tons per acre, would result in a production of 221,000 tons. The revised estimate of the 1952 production is 241,000 tons while the 10-year average production is 232,200 tons.

Following is the acreage in prospect, on the basis of reports received by BAE from processors in late March and early April:

State	1952 Indi- cated (acres)	1952 Planted (Revised) (acres)	1953 Indi- cated (acres)	Per- cent change from 1952
Maine.....	2,900	2,450	2,750	+12
N. Y.....	32,200	29,500	30,000	+2
Pa.....	4,600	5,600	5,800	+4
Mieh.....	6,200	6,700	7,300	+9
Wis.....	13,200	13,200	14,100	+7
Mo.....	500	400	400	....
Del.....	2,700	2,800	3,000	+7
Md.....	12,500	9,700	10,200	+5
Va.....	3,000	3,100	3,100	....
N. C.....	1,300	2,700	2,600	-4
S. C.....	900	500	500	....
Ga.....	200	200	200	....
Fla.....	7,500	8,200	8,500	+4
Tenn.....	5,400	4,000	4,700	-4
Miss.....	1,400	1,200	1,200	....
Ark.....	6,700	5,000	5,000	....
La.....	440	500	500	....
Okla.....	2,100	2,700	2,700	....
Texas.....	5,500	5,500	6,500	+18
Colo.....	1,700	1,400	1,500	+7
Utah.....	450	510	500	-2
Wash.....	2,000	2,000	2,100	+5
Ore.....	6,700	6,800	7,200	+9
Calif.....	1,400	1,500	2,200	+47
Other states ¹	5,350	5,080	5,940	+17
U. S. Total..	126,840	121,940	128,490	+5.4

¹ Ala., Idaho, Ill., Ind., Iowa, Ky., Minn., Mont., Nebr., N. J., N. M., Ohio, Va., and Wyo.

Sweet Corn for Processing

An acreage of sweet corn for processing nearly as large as was planted in 1952 is indicated for 1953, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

If early-season acreage prospects materialize, the 1953 plantings of sweet corn for canning, freezing and other processing will total 511,590 acres. This compares with 512,140 acres planted in 1952 and an average of 503,510 acres planted during the 10-year period, 1942-51.

Assuming average abandonment of about 7 percent, about 475,800 acres would be harvested in 1953. This compares with 486,020 acres harvested in 1952 and a 1942-51 average of 467,290 acres.

The harvest of 475,800 acres, with a yield in line with the 10-year average of 2.55 tons, would result in a production of about 1,213,300 tons. This compares with the 1952 production of 1,510,000 tons and a 1942-51 average production of 1,181,100 tons.

The acreage actually planted in 1953 may turn out to be larger or smaller than now indicated because of weather conditions, price changes, labor supply, financial conditions, and the effect of the BAE report itself upon processors' actions.

Following is the acreage in prospect, on the basis of reports received by BAE from processors in late March and early April:

State	1952 Indi- cated (acres)	1952 Planted (Revised) (acres)	1953 Indi- cated (acres)	Per- cent change from 1952
Maine.....	10,000	10,100	9,700	-4
N. H.....	480	540	540	....
Vt.....	750	800	1,000	+25
N. Y.....	27,000	27,400	28,800	+5
Pa.....	12,500	11,000	11,000	....
Ohio.....	15,700	15,200	13,200	-13
Ind.....	31,500	37,400	32,800	-12
Ill.....	68,200	67,900	66,000	-3
Wis.....	111,700	114,000	117,400	+3
Minn.....	89,600	91,700	92,600	+1
Iowa.....	28,000	30,000	28,500	-5
Del.....	4,800	5,400	5,400	....
Md.....	36,000	35,000	35,000	....
Va.....	1,100	1,100	1,300	+18
Idaho.....	12,400	10,500	10,500	....
Utah.....	7,200	6,600	6,700	+2
Wash.....	16,100	16,400	17,200	+5
Ore.....	16,300	15,600	17,100	+10
Other states ¹	16,540	15,500	16,580	+9
U. S. Total..	503,870	512,140	511,590	-0.1

¹ Ark., Colo., Mich., Mont., Nebr., N. J., Okla., S. D., Tenn., Tex., and Wyo.

Cabbage for Kraut

The acreage of kraut cabbage in prospect for contracting in 1953, including packers' own plantings, is about 16 percent more than was planted under contract in 1952 and nearly 18 percent more than the 10-year average, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

If early-season prospects materialize, the 1953 contract plantings for kraut will total 11,390 acres, compared with 9,840 acres in 1952 and an average of 9,680 acres for the 1942-51 period.

Information is not available at this time regarding the tonnage that kraut packers intend to purchase on the open market in 1953. The open market acreage in 1952 represented about 37 percent of the total planted acreage, and for the preceding 10-year period it averaged about 47 percent of the total.

Vegetables for Fresh Market

The indicated spring production of commercial vegetables for fresh market is 9 percent above last year and 10 percent larger than the 1949-51 average, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

This estimate is based on the spring crops reported to April 1 which usually account for about three-fifths of the total spring production. The largest increases in prospective spring tonnage, compared with last year, are for onions, tomatoes, cabbage, lettuce, asparagus and sweet corn, in the order named. The acreage of spring vegetables for fresh market—including those for which production is not estimated as of April 1—is 9 percent larger than last year and 8 percent above the average for the preceding three years. These crops usually account for about 85 percent of the total spring acreage.

Agricultural Prices

The current farm price and income situation was reviewed by Secretary Benson in a statement before the Senate Agricultural Appropriations Subcommittee on April 13. Following is the portion of the Secretary's statement dealing with that subject:

"Since February, the average level of prices received by farmers has been fairly stable, after having declined some 9 percent in the preceding 12 months, and a total of 16 percent since February, 1951, when the post-Korean inflation was at a peak. Over

the past year, prices received for beef cattle and veal calves have declined a third, prices of cotton and corn about an eighth and wholesale milk a tenth. However, prices of some products have increased in the past year with prices received for rice, apples and eggs up about a third, and hogs about a fifth. In recent weeks prices of commodities which contributed heavily to the farm price decline of the past year, notably beef cattle and cotton, have tended to stabilize.

"Some questions have been raised about the behavior of farm prices in the event of an end to fighting in Korea. Our analysis is that such an event would not cause appreciable change in the factors affecting prices for the foreseeable future. Later developments in our armament program are difficult to predict. Thus far, rumors of truce in Korea have had little discernible effect on prices of farm products.

"Although farm product prices, as a whole, are at a substantially lower level this year than last, the farm cost structure has remained high and relatively inflexible. The parity index (prices paid, interest, taxes and wage rates) in mid-March, 1953, was only 2 percent lower than a year earlier. The continuing cost-price squeeze in agriculture is reflected in a parity ratio of 94 in mid-March this year as compared with a ratio of 100 in March, 1952.

"How much income farmers will receive from this year's operations depends largely on the outturn of crops later in the year. The information available at this early stage—farmers' planting intentions as of March 1 and the current levels of farm product prices and cost rates to farmers—indicates that gross farm income may be reduced somewhat from 1952. With only little opportunity to reduce production costs materially, the realized net income of farm operators will likely be down more than 5 percent, perhaps as much as a tenth from 1952 (14.3 billion dollars). However, if this should materialize, net farm income would still be somewhat larger than the 12.3 billions received in 1952."

The Farm Cost Situation

With prices received by farmers for most farm products at a substantially lower level in 1953 than in 1952 and cost rates to farmers only slightly lower, the cost-price squeeze in agriculture this year is more severe than in 1952, and net farm income is expected to be lower, according to *The Farm Cost Situation*, published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Prices received by farmers in the first three months of 1953 averaged 9 percent below the comparable quarter in 1952 and 10 percent above the pre-Korean level (first half of 1950).

Prices paid for commodities and services used in farm production, including interest, taxes and wage rates in the first quarter of 1953 averaged about 3 percent below the same quarter a year ago, but were still about 14 percent above the average for the first half of 1950 (pre-Korea). The decline from a year ago was due mainly to a drop in prices of feed and of feeder and replacement livestock.

March 15 Parity Prices and 1952 Season Average Prices

The March 15 parity prices for six vegetables for processing were above the 1952 season average price paid to growers, and the March 15 parity prices for five processing vegetables were below the 1952 season average prices, according to the following comparison made by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics:

Vegetables for processing:	1952 Season average price	March 15 effective parity	March 15 parity as percent of 1952 season average
	(dollars per ton)		
Asparagus.....	209.00	207.00	99
Beans, Lima.....	150.00	154.00	103
Beans, snap.....	121.00	122.00	101
Beets.....	21.90	23.50	107
Cabbage.....	18.90	16.80	89
Corn, sweet.....	23.90	23.40	98
Cucumbers (bu.)..	1.67	1.57	94
Peas, green.....	90.40	97.50	108
Pimientos.....	80.00	73.60	92
Spinach.....	44.70	55.10	123
Tomatoes.....	29.40	31.50	107

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA.

1951-52 Pack of Sauerkraut

The 1951-52 pack of canned sauerkraut amounted to 6,019,003 actual cases, as compared with 7,223,357 cases packed in 1950-51, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics. The pack totals are computed for the periods beginning August 31 and ending September 1.

State	1950-51	1951-52
	(actual cases)	
New York.....	2,608,122	2,099,896
Ohio, Mich., and Ind....	1,369,017	1,119,681
Wisconsin.....	2,111,272	2,073,943
Other Midwest states....	179,744	39,112
West.....	506,062	370,183
South.....	339,140	316,188
U. S. Total.....	7,223,357	6,019,003

1952 Cranberry Sauce Pack

The 1952-53 pack of cranberry sauce amounted to 4,695,367 actual cases as compared with the 1951-52 pack of 5,120,323 cases, according to a report by the N.C.A. Division of Statistics.

Can Size	Number per case	1951-52	1952-53
		(actual cases)	
211 x 300 (7-8 oz.) ..	48	391,510	380,379
211 x 206 (15-16 oz.) ..	24	4,491,762	4,042,422
No. 2.....	24		
No. 3 Cyl. (404 x 700) ..	12	7,196	5,926
No. 10.....	6	184,636	221,414
Miscellaneous tin.....	24	14,938	16,332
Miscellaneous glass.....	24	30,261	28,874
U. S. Total.....		5,120,323	4,695,367

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